Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A map data transmission method comprising:

determining a recommended route extending from a current position to a destination ~~based upon map data that include road shape information indicating shapes of roads and road connection information indicating conditions with which the roads connect with one another~~;

extracting map data that include road shape information indicating shapes of roads and road connection information indicating conditions with which the roads connect with one another, over a slicing range set within a predetermined distance from the determined recommended route ~~from the map data~~;

making a decision as to whether or not the road connection information is to be eliminated from the extracted map data; and

transmitting ~~map data~~ the road shape information of the roads obtained by eliminating the road connection information corresponding to the roads from the extracted map data if results of the decision indicate that the road connection information is to be eliminated.

2. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to claim 1, wherein:

geographical conditions are set for the map data; and

the decision as to whether or not the road connection information is to be eliminated from the extracted map data is made ~~by deciding whether or not the map data satisfy~~ based upon the geographical conditions having been set.

3. (original) A map data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein:

the geographical conditions include an urban area; and

a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information if the extracted map data are not corresponding to the urban area.

4. (previously presented) A map data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein:

the geographical conditions include an area with good GPS reception; and

a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information if the extracted map data are corresponding to the area with good GPS reception.

5. (previously presented) A map data transmission method according to claim 1, wherein:

if the extracted map data include road data related to a road which does not connect with the recommended route, a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information corresponding to the road data.

6. (previously presented) A map data transmission method according to claim 1, wherein:

a distance from the current position to the destination on the determined recommended route is calculated;

a total data size of the extracted map data is estimated based upon the calculated distance; and

a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information if the estimated total data size is greater than a predetermined value.

7. (previously presented) A map data transmission method according to claim 1, wherein:

information indicating that the road connection information has been eliminated is attached to the transmitted map data.

8. (currently amended) A map data transmission method comprising:

determining a recommended route extending from a current position to a destination ~~based upon map data that include road shape information indicating shapes of roads and road connection information indicating conditions with which the roads connect with one another~~;

extracting ~~from the map data~~ map data that include road shape information indicating a shape of a road over a slicing range set within a predetermined distance from the determined recommended route;

making a decision as to whether or not part of the road shape information is to be eliminated from the extracted map data; and

transmitting ~~map data~~ a remaining part of the road shape information corresponding to the road obtained by eliminating part of the road shape information corresponding to the road from the extracted map data if results of the decision indicate that part of the road shape information is to be eliminated.

9. (original) A map data transmission method according to claim 8, wherein:

if the extracted map data include road data related to a road which does not connect with the recommended route, a decision is made to eliminate part of the road shape information corresponding to the road data.

10. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to claim 8, wherein:

a decision is made to eliminate part of the road shape information included in map data except for map data corresponding to a ~~potion~~ portion of recommended route which is located on an approaching side to a guidance point on the determined recommended route and within a predetermined distance from the guidance point.

11. (previously presented) A map data transmission method according to claim 8, wherein:

a distance from the current position to the destination on the determined recommended route is calculated;

a total data size of the extracted map data is estimated based upon the calculated distance; and

a decision is made to eliminate part of the road shape information if the estimated total data size is greater than a predetermined value.

12. (previously presented) A map data transmission method according to claim 8, wherein:

information indicating that part of the road shape information has been eliminated is attached to the transmitted map data.

13. (previously presented) An information distribution apparatus that executes a map data transmission method according to claim 1.

14. (previously presented) An information terminal at which a map is displayed by using map data transmitted from an information distribution apparatus according to claim 13, comprising:

a reception device that receives the map data; and

a display device that displays map data corresponding to the recommended route and map data contained within a specific distance from the recommended route based upon the received map data.

15. (currently amended) A map data transmission method comprising:

determining a recommended route extending from a current position to a destination ~~based upon map data that include road map data, which contain road shape information indicating shapes of roads and road connection information indicating condition with which the roads connect with one another, and facility data~~;

~~extracting road map data over a slicing range set within a predetermined distance from the determined recommended route and also extracting facility~~

~~data of a facility satisfying a specific requirement from facility data in an area beyond the slicing range based upon the map data; and~~

~~transmitting, at least, the road map data extracted over the slicing range, the facility data extracted beyond the slicing range and map data corresponding to a road connecting with the facility~~

setting a slicing range within a predetermined distance from the determined recommended route;

making a decision as to whether or not a facility satisfying a specific requirement is present in an area beyond the slicing range;

resetting the slicing range by expanding the slicing range so that the slicing range includes the facility and a road connecting with the facility, if the facility is decided to be present in the area beyond the slicing range;

extracting map data over the reset slicing range; and

transmitting the extracted map data.

16. (original) A map data transmission method according to claim 15, wherein:

the road connecting with the facility is an access road connecting the recommended route with the facility and also a return road connecting the facility with the recommended route.

17. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to claim 15, wherein:

the facility ~~data of a facility~~ satisfying the specific requirement is ~~are data related to~~ a specific type of facility that a user is likely to wish to use while traveling on the recommended route at a specific estimated time point.

18. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to claim 15, wherein:

the specific requirement satisfied by the facility ~~data~~ is an estimated traveling distance, an estimated time point or an estimated geographical position at which a remaining fuel quantity becomes equal to or smaller than a predetermined value while traveling on the recommended route and the facility ~~data extracted when~~ by which the specific requirement is satisfied ~~relate~~ relates to a refueling facility.

19. (currently amended) An information terminal at which a map is displayed by using map data transmitted by adopting a map data transmission method according to claim 15, comprising:

a reception device that receives the map data; and

a display device that displays a road map and a facility mark ~~data~~ within [[a]] the reset slicing range ~~containing the recommended route and ranging~~

~~within a predetermined distance from the recommended route and a facility mark corresponding to extracted facility data~~ based upon the received map data.

20. (previously presented) An information distribution apparatus that executes a map data transmission method according to claim 8.

21. (new) A map data transmission method comprising:

determining a recommended route extending from a current position to a destination;

extracting map data the include road shape information indicating shapes of roads and road connection information indicating conditions with which the roads connect with one another, over a slicing range set within a predetermined distance from the determined recommended route; and

transmitting the road shape information of the roads obtained by eliminating the road connection information corresponding to the roads from the extracted map data, if the extracted map data correspond to an area in which good GPS reception has been set.